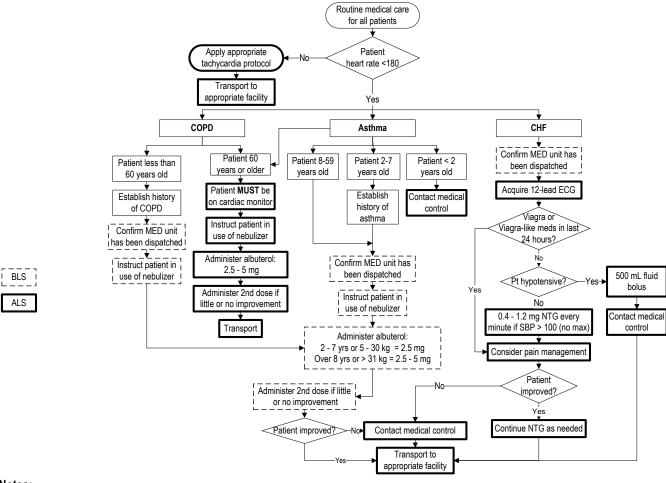
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MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOL RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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History	Signs/Symptoms	Working Assessment
May have a history of asthma (history	Chest tightness	Asthma
required for patients 2 - 7 years old)	Dyspnea	
Exposure to irritant	Coughing or wheezing	
Recent URI	Accessory muscle use	
History of COPD	Chronic cough	COPD
	Dyspnea	
	Pursed lip breathing	
	Prolonged exhalation	
	Barrel chest	
	Clubbing of fingers	
May have a history of CHF	Orthopnea	CHF
	Restlessness	
	Wet or wheezing breath sounds	
	Hypertension	
	Tachycardia	
	Jugular vein distention	



Notes:

- A history of CHF is not required before treatment is initiated.
- Patients 60 years and older <u>must</u> be on a cardiac monitor.
- Establish a history of asthma before treating children between 2 and 7 years old. Wheezing may be caused by cardiomyopathy and antagonized by albuterol.
- If an asthmatic has no improvement after a second albuterol treatment, consider contacting medical control for an order for intramuscular epinephrine.
- A MED unit must transport any patient receiving albuterol in the field.
- Normal room air oxygen saturation (pulse ox) is 94 100%.